

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00

AGR-20 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 034983

R 210500Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4996

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, BY, TZ

SUBJ: BURUNDI REFUGEES IN TANZANIA

GENEVA FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS SECTION; ROME FOR FAO OFFICE

1. SUMMARY. TEAM REPRESENTING UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) AND TANGANYIKA CHRISTIAN REFUGEE SERVICE (TCRS) RETURNED MARCH 17 FROM INSPECTION OF BURUNDI REFUGEE SITUATION IN KIGOMA REGION. REPS. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS REPORT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN MOVEMENT OF HUTU REFUGEES FROM KOGOMA REGION TO PERMANENT SETTLEMENT CAMPS. IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THERE ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE BURUNDI REFUGEES IN TANZANIA THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. UNHCR AND TCRS PLACE CURRENT TOTAL AT ABOUT 100,000. VERY FEW REFUGEES, HOWEVER, ARE PRESENTLY CROSSING INTO TANZANIA FROM BURUNDI OR OTHER AREAS. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING RECENT CALL AT EMBASSY TO BID FAREWELL AND TO INTRODUCE

HIS SUCCESSOR, DON CROSSON, HEAD CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IN ANZANIA, ALERTED US TO RECENT INFLUX OF BURUNDI REFUGEES INTO SETTLEMENTS WHICH STRAINING TANZANIA'S REFUGEE FACILITIES. SUBSEQUENTLY, EMB. OFF. TALKED MARCH 19-20 WITH REPS OF UNHCR AND TCRS WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM INSPECTION OF BURUNDI REFUGEE SITUATION IN KIGOMA REGION OF TANZANIA. BOTH REPS RELATED ALMOST IDENTICAL REPORTS. INSPECTION WAS MADE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHY THERE HAS BEEN HUGE INFLUX OF REFUGEES INTO PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS IN RECENT WEEKS. ON FEBRUARY 9, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE 11,700 REFUGEES AT KATUMBA SETTLEMENT NEAR MPANDA. BY MARCH 19 FIGURE REACHED 25,000 AT KATUMBA WITH 3,000 WAITING OUTSIDE KIGOMA FOR TRANSPORTATION TO KATUMBA. ON SAME DATE, ULYANKULU SETTLEMENT OUTSIDE TABORA CONTAINED 33,000 REFUGEES. ANOTHER 1,000 RECENTLY ENTERED NGARA IN WEST LAKE REGION HAVING COME FROM ZAIRE AND RWANDA. ABOUT 120 BURUNDI OF MIXED HUTU-TUTSI PARENTAGE ARE LOCATED AT PANGALE SETTLEMENT NEAR TABORA. UNHCR AND TCRS AGREE THAT BETWEEN 30,000 AND 35,000 HUTU REFUGEES ARE STILL LOCATED OUTSIDE SETTLEMENTS IN KIGOMA REGION. SOME TANGOV ESTIMATES ARE HIGHER. UNHCR AND TCRS PUT CURRENT TOTAL BURUNDI REFUGEE FIGURE IN TANZANIA AT 100,000.

3. INFLUX OF REFUGEES INTO SETTLEMENTS IS DUE PRIMARILY TO INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN TANZANIA. OPERATION KIGOMA, DRIVE TO LOCATE TANZANIANS IN KIGOMA REGION IN UJAMAA (COMMUNAL) VILLAGES, IS NOW IN FULL SWING. AS TANZANIANS JOIN UJAMAA VILLAGES, THEY ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO SERVE AS HOSTS FOR HUTU FRIENDS AND RELATIVES FROM BURUNDI. IT IS TANZANIAN POLICY NOT TO ALLOW BURUNDI REFUGEES INTO UJAMAA VILLAGES. LIKEWISE, TANGOV IS NOT PERMITTING REFUGEES TO TAKE OVER HOUSES OF DEPARTING TANZANIAN NATIONALS SO THAT THIS WILL NOT SERVE AS DISINCENTIVE FOR JOINING UJAMAA VILLAGE. IT IS ALSO TANZANIAN POLICY TO MOVE REFUGEES AWAY FROM BORDER. ANOTHER FACTOR IS DROUGHT CONDITION IN PARTS OF KIGOMA REGION WHICH IS LEADING TO FOOD SHORTAGES. REFUGEES KNOW FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SETTLEMENTS. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN LARGE RECENT MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM KIGOMA REGION TO SETTLEMENTS. SOME REFUGEES ARE EVEN PAYING OWN WAY TO MARSHALLING SITE OUTSIDE KIGOMA TOWN.

4. TANZANIA-BURUNDI BORDER CONTINUES TO BE QUIET ALTHOUGH THERE WAS PERIOD DURING DECEMBER WHEN 200-300 REFUGEES PER DAY CROSSED INTO TANZANIA. REPS UNABLE OFFER EXPLANATION FOR THIS SHORT TERM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASE. SITUATION SURROUNDING INFLUX OF 1,000 REFUGEES AT NGARA IS SPECIAL CASE. UNHCR AND TCRS BELIEVE MICOMBERO PUT PRESSURE ON ZAIRE AND RWANDA TO SOLVE HUTU REFUGEE PROBLEM. SOME OF REFUGEES AT NGARA CLAIM THAT THEY WERE BEING FORCED BACK TO BURUNDI BY ZAIRE GOVERNMENT. THEY REPORTEDLY MADE WAY TO RWANDA WHERE THEY WERE TOLD THEY ARE NOT WANTED AND ULTIMATELY CROSSED INTO TANZANIA. TANGOV IS UNHAPPY WITH THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION AS IT BELIEVES IT IS BEING FORCED TO ACCEPT BURDEN WHICH IS

RESPONSIBILITY OF ZAIRE AND RWANDA. TANZANIA IS QUITE WILLING TO RECEIVE REFUGEES BUT RELUCTANT TO TAKE THOSE BEING REJECTED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY. TANGOV IS REPORTEDLY PATROLLING RWANDA-TANZANIA BORDER IN EFFORT TO STOP ADDITIONAL INFLUX BURUNDI REFUGEES FROM RWANDA.

5. REFUGEE AGENCIZS AND TANGOV ARE FACING INCREASING PROBLEMS AT SETTLEMENTS. ULYANKULU IS NOT ONLY FILLED BUT FACING WATER SHORTAGE AS RESULT OF CURRENT DROUGHT. WATER TABLE DROPPED DRAMATICALLY AND EVEN THREATENS SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER. TCRS IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING SITUATION AND MAY MAKE REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. ON PLUS SIDE, ULYANKULU GREW SURPLUS LAST CROP SEASON OF 5,000 TONS OF MAIZE WHICH IS BEING SENT TO KATUMBA. FURTHER, KATUMBA SETTLEMENT HAS PLENTY OF WATER AND UNLIMITED EXPANSION CAPACITY. CURRENT BUDGET, HOWEVER, ALLOWS FOR MAXIMUM OF 35,000 REFUGEES. TANGOV ALSO TROUBLED BY TOO LARGE CONCENTRATION OF BURUNDI NATIONALS IN ONE AREA AND AISHES TO LIMIT SIZE OF KATUMBA. SEARCH IS UNDERWAY FOR 3RD BURUNDI REFUGEE SITE IN NEWLY CREATED RUKWA REGION.

6. COMMENT

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Message Attributes

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